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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/822,704	04/13/2004	Maria Grigorievna Lunts	251732US0DIV	2931
22850 7590 02/16/2007 OBLON, SPIVAK, MCCLELLAND, MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C. 1940 DUKE STREET ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314			EXAMINER MARX, IRENE	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			1651	
SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE		NOTIFICATION DATE	DELIVERY MODE	
3 MONTHS		02/16/2007	ELECTRONIC	

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Notice of this Office communication was sent electronically on the above-indicated "Notification Date" and has a shortened statutory period for reply of 3 MONTHS from 02/16/2007.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

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Art Unit: 1651

DETAILED ACTION

The application should be reviewed for errors.

To facilitate processing of papers at the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, it is recommended that the Application Serial Number be inserted on every page of claims and/or of amendments filed.

Applicant's election with traverse of species A: L-glutamic acid and species B: any of the L-isoleucine biosynthetic enzyme activities on 12/28/06 is acknowledged. The traversal is on the ground(s) that the office has not provided reasons or examples to support a conclusion that the species are patentably distinct and that no serious burden is imposed.

However this is not found persuasive because the pathways of production of the various amino acids are distinct. This is borne out by the present written disclosure wherein no single *Escherichia* strain is disclosed that has the recited properties and produces each of the three recited amino acids.

Moreover, as to the question of burden of search, classification of subject matter is merely one indication of the burdensome nature of the search involved. The literature search, particularly relevant in this art, is not co-extensive and is much more important in evaluating the burden of search. Burden in examining materially different groups having materially different issues also exists.

For these reasons, the restriction requirement is deemed proper and is adhered to. The restriction requirement is hereby made FINAL. .

Claims 5-8 are being examined on the merits to the extent that they pertain to the production of L-glutamic acid ONLY.

Claims 5-8 are withdrawn from consideration as they pertain to the production of L-arginine or L-proline.

DEPOSIT

Strain *E. coli* VL33thrC⁺ has been deposited at VKPM under accession number VKPM B-8961 (Specification page 12). The deposit requirements are met in application serial No. 09/953298, now U.S. Patent No. 6,569,425 (MPEP 2404.01).

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Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 5-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Phillips *et al.* (J. of Bacteriology, Feb. 1972, vol. 109, pages 714-719) in light of Integrated Enzyme Database (IntEnz; <http://www.ebi.ac.uk/intenz/query?cmd=SearchEC&ec=4.3.1.19>)

The claims are directed to the production of glutamic acid with an *Escherichia* strain that is auxotrophic for isoleucine, and/or deficient in any of L-isoleucine biosynthetic enzyme activities, and specifically in threonine deaminase activity.

Phillips *et al.* disclose the production of glutamic acid with *Escherichia coli* LA-9 that is auxotrophic for isoleucine, and deficient specifically in threonine deaminase activity. See, e.g., Phillips *et al.*, page 715, paragraph 2; page 716, col. 2. IntEnz adequately demonstrates that threonine deaminase and threonine dehydratase are the same enzyme.

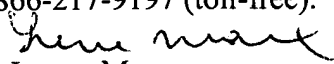
The strain *Escherichia coli* LA-9 clearly produces L-glutamic acid which is collected from the culture.

No claim is allowed.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Irene Marx whose telephone number is (571) 272-0919. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (6:30-3:00).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael G. Wityshyn can be reached on 571-272-0926. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


Irene Marx
Primary Examiner